



PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4208.0113

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Kiyoshi ABE et al.)
Application No.: 09/889,007) Group Art Unit: 2833
Filed: October 29, 2001) Examiner: Gary F. Paumen
For: CARD CONNECTOR)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, a Japanese PCT Search Report is enclosed which indicates the relevance of the JP-5-96941 reference according to the PCT Search Authority. As shown, the relevance is listed as "A" (document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider

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the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

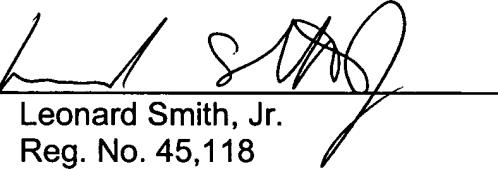
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 25, 2003

By:


Leonard Smith, Jr.
Reg. No. 45,118

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com